The Outer Spacement Presents

William Shakespeare's

A Midsummer Night's Dream

San Francisco

June 19, 20, & 21

2026

The Outer Spacement Presents:

A Midsummer Night's Dream

By William Shakespeare

Director
Robert George

Producers
Whitney Humphreys & Vanessa Soto

Stage Manager
Kylie McCaffrey

Music Director
Derek Burle

Technical Director
Alan Fineberg

Visuals & Recording
Anthony Tešija & Zoe Hertz

Photography
Sean Philips

Cast

Hippolyta/Titania.....Gabriela Velez

Theseus/Oberon.....Connor Tench

Puck/Philostrate.....Arlo Karpelevitch

Egeus.....Devon La Bar

Hermia.....Lisa Maria France

Lysander.....Julia Noel

Helena.....Helen Burns

Demetrius.....Sophia Santos

Bottom.....Sara Knight

Peter Quince.....Pip Ewing

Starveling.....Amy Schneider

Snug/Mustardseed.....Mareiwa Miller

Flute/Peaseblossom.....Elizabeth Deely

Snout/Cobweb.....Betty Yang

Changeling Child.....Tasha

Plot Synopsis

ACT 1
Our play opens in the court of Duke Theseus of Athens, who is soon to be wed to Hippolyta, the Amazon Queen. Egeus, a noble, approaches Theseus with a patriarchal dilemma: his daughter, Hermia, refuses to wed his preferred groom, Demetrius, and insists on being with Lysander instead. Hermia and Lysander plan to elope to the Athenian forest, and share their scheme with Hermia's lifelong friend Helena, who is in love with Demetrius. Helena decides to reveal their elopement to Demetrius to gain his favor.

Meanwhile, an acting troupe of roughcast Athenian laborers, known as Mechanicals, plan to put on a play for Duke Theseus' wedding day. Their effort centers on a proud weaver named Nick Bottom, who considers themself to be the greatest actor in Athens.

ACT 2
In the Athenian forest, another world is discovered: the court of the fairy king and queen, Oberon and Titania, which is rife with dissension. Titania has taken into her entourage a changeling dog, but Oberon covets for the dog for his own retinue. Oberon plots with Robin, the infamous fairy also known as Puck, to use a magical flower to make Titania fall in love with a beast. After seeing Helena's desperate and hopeless pursuit of Demetrius into the forest, Oberon also commands Robin to use the flower to make Demetrius fall in love with her.

Oberon successfully applies the magical flower to Titania while she's sleeping. Meanwhile Hermia and Lysander flee into the forest, but get lost and are forced to sleep in the woods. Robin, mistaking Lysander for Demetrius, applies the flower to his eyes. When he wakes, he sees Helena, and pursues her deeper into the forest, leaving Hermia behind.

ACT 3
The mechanicals meet in the forest to rehearse their play. Robin happens upon their rehearsal and, seeing an opportunity for mischief, places a donkey head on Bottom. The rest of the acting troupe flee in terror, but Titania wakes and immediately falls deeply in love with Bottom.

FIFTEEN MINUTE INTERMISSION

Robin reports to Oberon on their exploits. They observe Demetrius and Hermia arguing about where Lysander has run off to. Hermia runs deeper into the forest and Demetrius, exhausted, sleeps. Oberon realizes Robin has used the magical flower on the wrong Athenian, and commands them to seek out the other Lovers so they can set things right. Oberon applies the magical flower to Demetrius, who wakes when Helena and Lysander enter arguing and immediately falls in love with Helena. As Lysander and Demetrius both proclaim their devotion to Helena, Hermia happens upon the scene, and is rebuked by Lysander. The Lovers argue, but Robin eventually lulls them all to sleep and undoes the magical spell on Lysander, so that he will love Hermia again.

ACT 4
Bottom has taken his place at Titania's side, lording over the fairy court. Oberon, taking pity on Titania, undoes the magical spell and Robin removes the donkey head from Bottom. Titania and Oberon leave together, although peace in the fairy court remains an elusive proposition.

The Lovers are found in the forest by Theseus, Hippolyta, and Egeus. Theseus, after hearing of Demetrius' change of heart, overrules the law of Athens and allows the Lovers to join his own wedding ceremony with Hippolyta, so that they all might be wed.

Bottom awakes and, after some philosophical reflection on his strange dreams, joins the other Mechanicals to put the final touches on their play.

ACT 5
Theseus and Hippolyta, along with the Lovers, are wed. The Mechanical's production of The Tragedy of Pyramus and Thisbe goes off with several hitches, but they are still rewarded for their performance. The play ends with a final trick from Robin, who has disguised themself as the master of revels in the Athenian court.

Cast Bios

DEREK BURLE | Derek Burle is a multi-instrumentalist and music educator based in Oakland, CA. He is beyond thrilled to join the Midsummer Night's Dreamers and to compose and perform original works for this production. Derek is a founding member of the swing punk outfit, Van Goat, and makes solo music under the name Tall Doctor.

HELEN BURNS | Helen is excited to return to the stage after an unfortunate hiatus (adulthood)! She is honored to be a part of her first ever Shakespeare production. Recent(ish) credits include Le Comtesse Adéle in the University of Puget Sound's production of Le Comte Ory (2015), Opera San Jose's Young Artist Summer Program (2016), and singing with the San Francisco Symphony Chorus (2022-present). When she isn't onstage, Helen teaches chorus at Hoover Middle School in San Francisco. She sends her eternal gratitude and love to her husband Mitch, her family and friends, her cat Julie, and the incredible cast/crew of this show.

ELIZABETH DEELY | Tried to shy away from my family's theatrics as a kid, but it could only be repressed for so long! It's fun embracing theatre-adulthood!

PIP EWING | Peter Quince, Director
(A man of few words)

LISA MARIA FRANCE | The urban myth that Lisa fell from the heavens in a rain of gold and silver spectacular, is not so far from the truth. Hailing from the San Francisco Bay Area, Lisa grew up with a love of drawing basically anything, making the people around her laugh, and a huge appetite for stories. Her favorite things include spending time with her velcro lap cat, being a bird nerd, crocheting, frolicking in nature, watching movies with friends, and making delicious food. This is her return to the theater after a 20-year hiatus. Please clap.

ROBERT GEORGE | Robert George grew up acting in Shakespeare plays in the Sierra Nevada foothills. After these early experiences and graduating from the Great Books program at St. John's College, he's become a lifelong believer in the power of literature and art to bring people together and create new communities. As a first time director, he could not have asked for a more inspiring and dedicated group of artists to put on a play with. When he wasn't directing this play, he was starting book clubs, leading seminars, and creating stories around tables with friends. He plans to do more of all of the above for as long as he is able. He's thankful for the support of his friends and girlfriend Stephanie during the past 6 months of play-making.

WHITNEY HUMPHREYS | Whitney is a San Francisco-based multi-media artist and educator. In addition to teaching studio art courses at community colleges and public arts institutions throughout the bay area, she is a resident Tattoo Artist at Black Serum studio and is the Artistic Director for the Spacement DIY space that she runs with her partner, Alan (right here in this yard!). Her passions for taking on enormously involved artistic endeavors while facilitating connectedness through creativity within her community are what lead her to pursue this project. The chance to spend all her free time making magic with her friends is the dream of a lifetime.

ARLO KARPELEVICH | Arlo is incredibly excited to be part of this show with some awesome people, and so honored to play the trickster Puck! They haven't done any acting since high school,
so his has been a lovely return to the cool and fun and dumb and weird world of Shakespeare. Aside from the theatre, Arlo loves to sew and craft, talk about Eurovision, and nerd out about anything and everything. Ask them about composting! They'd love to thank their loving spouse Ares, their baby cat Uma, their super supportive friends and family, and the spectacular cast and crew!

SARA KNIGHT | Sara Knight is an artist and public school educator hailing from the Bay Area! This production is a return to the stage for them & genuinely one of the best things they've ever been a part of. Despite playing Bottom, they are a top.

DEVON LA BAR | Devon La Bar is excited to join this incredible group of artists! They are thrilled to perform in such a whimsical Shakespeare show, finding Shakespeare studies and performance one of their all-time passions. Devon is also a director and an instructor with Tomorrow Youth Repertory in Alameda, enjoying helping cultivate arts and growth in the community. Devon would like to extend all their love to their friends and family for all the continued support.

KYLIE MCCAFFREY | Kylie joined the production because she believes in the power of many creatives coming together to make something special! This is her first Shakespeare production and play in over 10 years. In Oakland, she has produced a stand up comedy show and she currently manages Hog Island Oyster Co. in the ferry building. In her spare time you can find her walking Lake Merritt, going to shows at the Spacement, and projecting movies in her living room She is so thankful to the cast and crew for all their hard work, and to have taken part in such a wonderful backyard production.

TASHA | Tasha is a nine-year-old Borzoi, rescued in South Korea and brought to the Bay Area for adoption by the Greyhounds Friends for Life organization. She was adopted by Alan and Whitney in 2024 and has been delighting the neighborhood with her elegance and mystery ever since. She is the greatest dog who has ever lived.

MAREIWA MILLER | Mareiwa is a Colombian sculptor based in San Francisco.

JULIA NOEL | Hi Friends! My name is Julia Noel (Lysander), and I am so excited to be a part of this production. I have been in a variety of community theater productions, such as playing Lord Pinkleton in Cinderella and a Wickersham Brother in Seussical. When I am not on stage, you can find me playing street hockey and talking about the San Jose Sharks on Teal Town USA.

SOPHIA SANTOS | Sophia is thrilled to make her Outer Spacement debut. She hails from Massachusetts and has lived in the Bay for 8 years. When not on stage, Sophia enjoys being with loved ones, DJing, and teaching first grade.

AMY SCHNEIDER | Amy Schneider caught the acting bug as a River City kid in The Music Man back in 1991, and has played many roles since, both in Dayton, Ohio and here in the Bay Area. She particularly loves Shakespeare, and is delighted to be revisiting it after a long break from the stage. You also may have seen her doing standup at SF SketchFest, or on a popular televised quiz show

VANESSA SOTO | Vanessa is a fiber artist, community organizer, and library enthusiast from Chicago. A long-time lover of Shakespeare, she is thrilled to be making her Producing debut with A Midsummer Night's Dream. She lives in San Francisco with her partner Bill and their cat Quetza, and looks forward to embarking on many more silly art journeys with her friends.

CONNOR TENCH | I grew up in Allentown, PA, and have lived in Oakland since 2016. I'm a fan of baking, running, defending Spindrift's honor against La Croix, and learning songs by Sufjan Stevens on guitar. I'm a proud member of the SF Symphony Chorus, with whom I've sung since 2018. I've had the honor of performing under the direction of Jenny Wong, Michael Tilson Thomas, Esa-Pekka Salonen, and many others. Performance collaborations include Peter Sellars, Danny Elfman, Joe Hisaishi, and Ludwig Wicki.

GABRIELA VELEZ | Gabriela is a potion-brewing barista, all-around performer with a singer-songwriter focus, and amateur herbalist. She has lived in west San Francisco for nearly 10 years before being drawn like a moth to the flame of the vibrant Spacement artist community, and has been thrilled to be a part of the whirlwind of passion that is our Midsummer Night's Dream. Ask for her lovingly critical analysis on Titania and Hippolyta as foreigner queens vying for power in their courts, or her hot takes on the development of English fairy lore in the Late Renaissance, if you dare.

Special Thanks to our Production Volunteers & Supporters

Bee Steffen

Tabatha Abraham

Clarissa Franke

Stephanie Lee

India Powell

Sierra Pearl Drossman

Lore Kerr

Eve Dill

Madi Toloui

Art Hazelwood

Mina Turan

Shannon Rudd

Sarah George

Erin O'Keefe

Natalie Rantanen

Carl Glick

Christopher Statton

Oona Murphy

Sean Phillips

Cody Lowe

Hannah Azerang

Scott Wurtz

Gikui Kuria

Gary Humphreys

Julie Humphreys

Joel Millikan

Bill Keuth

Rebecca George

David Stemmer

Jerry Haagsma

Letter from the Production Team

How did it come to be that you find yourself now, sitting in a backyard in San Francisco, about to watch a host of friends, family, and strangers put on a production of A Midsummer Night's Dream? A dream and a joke are to blame.

February 2024, while preparing for Vanessa's wedding, Vanessa and Whitney dreamed about putting on a play. The timing wasn't right, though. Last October, Robert joked that Whitney already had enough Ren Faire outfits in her closet to do Midsummer tomorrow (this turned out not to be the case). That was just a joke, until two months later, Whitney and Vanessa came back with, "But actually..." Then we found ourselves in a Mission coffee shop in January, putting our heads together to turn a dream and a joke into the play you're here to see.

From the earliest conversations, the question, why put on a play at all, was answered by two facts and another question: it's a beautiful thing to do, it's difficult in all the good ways, and, why not? Actually producing the play provided more answers. Our play is a mix of people doing something for the first time ever and people returning to something they haven't done in five to twenty years. It's been a testament to the power of creativity in a difficult time. When so much is wrong with the world, we can still create something special in our corner of it.

When you venture into the forest, you don't know what you'll find there. The Lovers in our play become embroiled in a magical order they can't begin to understand. On our own trek into the woods, we discovered a different kind of magic: a host of actors and volunteers who joined us on the journey to make some art together. We're thankful for all their time and efforts – they are what dreams are made of.

Love,
Robert, Vanessa, and Whitney